

# PROPOSED CHANGES TO PUBLIC HEALTH FEES

## ORGANIZED CAMPS & CHILDREN'S CAMPS

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (EH), is proposing changes to the Los Angeles County Code, Title 8 – Consumer Protection, Business, and Wage Regulations; Division 1 – Public Health Licenses. These changes impact permit, plan check, and service fees that are collected under the authority of State and County Codes to carry out duties that protect public health and safety.

### Overview of Program

EH is responsible for inspecting camp facilities. These inspections help verify that camps are safe, clean, and healthy for all participants. Environmental health inspectors check water quality, food service, sanitation, and sleeping areas to prevent illness and protect campers. These inspections allow camps to operate responsibly and provide a safe environment for our communities. There are two types of camps that are under the jurisdiction of Public Health:

**Organized Camps** are defined as sites with programs and facilities that offer **four (4) or more overnight stays** during one or more seasons of the year. The primary purpose is to provide an outdoor group living experience with social, spiritual, educational, or recreational objectives.

**Children's Camps** operating in unincorporated Los Angeles County may need a Public Health Permit or a Public Health Registration, depending on the camp type, location, and camp duration.

A Children's Camp is defined as the following:

- The site has programs and facilities attended by 5 or more children ages 3-17
- The primary purpose is providing group experience with social, spiritual, educational, or recreational objectives
- The site operates for over 3 hours per day for at least 5 days during any 12-month period

**Note:** If the camp offers no more than 1 overnight stay per season, then it is classified as a Children's Day Camp.

### Why are the fees changing now?

Fees were last increased in 2018 for Organized Camps. While fees have remained the same, operational costs have increased annually due to negotiated employee salaries and benefits, along with inflation. From FY 19/20 through FY 25/26, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by about 25%, and cost-of-living increases approved for County workers totaled 20.5%. Yet fees have remained at 2018 levels despite these cost increases.

A comprehensive fee study was conducted along with an evaluation of current operational costs and the fee levels required to cover those costs. The study reviewed direct and indirect costs associated with program administration, inspection, oversight and enforcement. The fee analysis structure was validated by the LA County Auditor-Controller. The last comprehensive fee study for EH programs was conducted in 2011. While Children's Camp fees were adopted in 2023, the initial time estimates were underestimated.

### What are the fee changes?

A summary of the proposed fees is listed below. If approved by the Board of Supervisors, the new fees will go into effect December 15, 2026. Existing permitted businesses will receive a supplemental invoice for any increases in annual health permit fees for Fiscal Year 26/27, and existing businesses where annual permit fee decreased will receive a credit during the FY27/28 annual health permit billing.

To minimize the impact of future increases, starting in FY 27/28, fees will be adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), with no fee exceeding the reasonable cost of providing services.

## SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CAMP FEES

| PERMIT TYPES                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Current Fee | Proposed New Fee |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| <b>CHILDREN'S CAMP REGISTRATION:</b><br>Children's Camp that operates four (4) weeks or less in any 12-month period need only to register                                                                    | \$174       | <b>\$213</b>     |
| <b>CHILDREN'S CAMP (5 – 249 CAMPERS):</b><br>Site with programs and facilities for 5 or more children (ages 3-17) that provide social, spiritual, educational, or recreational experiences                   | \$490       | <b>\$812</b>     |
| <b>CHILDREN'S CAMP SPECIALIZED ACTIVITY/OVERNIGHT (5-249 CAMPERS):</b> A camp offering specialized activities that require a certified and/or experienced trainer (i.e. horseback riding, archery, shooting) | \$673       | <b>\$974</b>     |
| <b>CHILDREN'S CAMP 250+ CAMPERS</b>                                                                                                                                                                          | \$566       | <b>\$1,055</b>   |
| <b>ORGANIZED CAMP:</b><br>Sites with programs and facilities that provide social, spiritual, educational, or recreational outdoor experience, with four (4) or more overnight stays                          | \$772       | <b>\$710</b>     |

| PLAN CHECK FEES                                                                                                                                                              | Current Fee | Proposed New Fee   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| <b>CHILDREN'S CAMP/ORGANIZED CAMP INITIAL APPLICATION:</b><br>Initial application fee for health permit which includes review of submitted plans and initial site evaluation | \$521       | <b>\$1,833</b>     |
| <b>ORGANIZED CAMP APPLICATION</b><br>Application fee for existing camp when certified by the American Camp Association                                                       | \$521       | <b>Hourly Rate</b> |

## FEE COMPARSION BY COUNTY

The proposed fees are consistent with those of comparable jurisdictions when accounting for differences in scale and scope. Given Los Angeles County's large population and extensive inspection and service responsibilities, the proposed fees are appropriately aligned with comparable jurisdictions.

| PERMIT FEES    | LOS ANGELES PROPOSED NEW FEE | PASADENA | ORANGE | RIVERSIDE       | SAN DIEGO     | SAN BERNARDINO |
|----------------|------------------------------|----------|--------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| ORGANIZED CAMP | \$710                        | \$508    | \$671  | \$970 - \$1,427 | \$913 - 1,656 | \$457 - 669    |

There are no other counties that have adopted a Children's Camp ordinance, therefore there are no comparable fees.

Visit our website to learn more about [Camps](#).

### How to provide feedback

Questions and comments can be submitted to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EHfees> or scan the QR code.

